

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAB-01 SAM-01 SSM-05 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 201354Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: WESTBANK GENERALLY CALM; MINOR INCIDENTS IN JERUSALEM

REF: JERUSALEM 684

1. SUMMARY: FEW RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN JERUSALEM AREA MAY 20, BUT REPORTS INDICATE WEST BANK GENERALLY CALM. MANY SHOPS STILL CLOSED IN OLD CITY BUT OTHERS IN EAST JERUSALEM OPEN UNDER POLICE THREAT. OVER NINETY ARRESTED IN PAST THREE DAYS. CURFEW STILL IN EFFECT IN RAMALLAH/AL BIRA. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE HEARD OF ONLY FEW RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENTS IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM MAY 20, INCLUDING SETTING-UP OF ROADBLOCKS IN SHU*AFAT AREA AND AT TURNOFF TO NEVE YA'AKOV ON JERUSALEM-RAMALLAH ROAD AND AT SECONDARY ROAD TO BETHLEHEM OFF JERUSALEM-JERICHO ROAD. EGGED BUS ALSO REPORTEDLY STONED IN NEARBY VILLAGE. RADIO REPORTS DRIVER FIRED SHOTS FROM PISTOL HE LICENSED TO CARRY, TO "SCARE OFF" STONE-THROWERS. POLICE ARRIVED AND DISPERSED CROWD. NO ONE HURT.

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3. CONTRARY TO RADIO REPORT, MANY SHOPS STILL CLOSED IN JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY AND FEW SHOPPERS CONSIST MAINLY OF TOURISTS. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN REST OF JERUSALEM APPEARS TO BE NORMAL, HOWEVER. JERUSALEM POLICE COMMANDER YESTERDAY WARNED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS THAT IF BUSINESSES DID NOT REOPEN TODAY (MAY 20) FORCED CLOSURES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS WOULD OCCUR. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY WARNED THAT SOME SHOPS MIGHT BE TURNED INTO TEMPORARY POLICE STATIONS, MEASURE WE UNDERSTND USED A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN GOODS REMOVED FROM SEVERAL STORES AND TWO OR THREE POLICEMEN SENT TO OCCUPY THEM.

4. ACCORDING TO LATEEST REPORTS, 77 PERSONS ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM MAY 18 AND 19 AND ARE FOR MOST PART BEING FINED AND RELEASED. FIFTEEN MORE SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED MAY 20, MOSTLY YOUNG PARTICIPANTS IN DEMONSTRATIONS OR INCITERS OF STRIKES.

5. CURFEWS STILL IN EFFECT IN RAMALLAH AND AL BIRA ALTHOUGH LIFTED FOR ONE HOUR MAY 20. REPORTS INDICATE SITUATION THROUGHOUT WEST BANK CALM. HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD BY EYEWITNESS THAT DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN HEBRON MAY 19 AT WHICH PALESTINIAN FLAG WAS FLOWN. NO MENTION OF THIS EVENT HAS APPEARED IN PRESS, AND OTHERS MAY BE SIMILARLY UNPUBLICIZED.
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